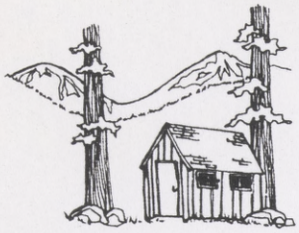


MINERAL KING PRESERVATION SOCIETY
2936 S. West Street, Visalia, California 93277

Historian

John F. Elliott
260 Brentwood St.
Costa Mesa, CA 92627
(714) 673-8657

Directors

Mrs. Ora Kay Peterson
2936 S. West St.
Visalia, CA 93277
(209) 734-6150

Mr. William Martin
1620 W. College
Visalia, CA 93277
(209) 625-3401

Mr. James Barton
P O Box 205
Three Rivers, CA 93271
(209) 561-4205

Mrs. Jean Koch
2125 Ames St.
Los Angeles, CA 90027
(213) 664-6902

Mr. Donald Pinkham
531 E. Walnut
Exeter, CA 93221
(209) 594-5663

Mr. Stony Savage
1438 S. Clark
Visalia, CA 93277
(209) 732-9543

Mr. Earl Meyer
405 W. Camino Fair Haven
Tuscon, AZ 85704
(602) 742-4649

Mr. Michael Botkin
P O Box 553
Three Rivers, CA 93271
(209) 561-4322

Mr. David Cairns
P O Box 325
Lemon Cove, CA 93244
(209) 597-2563

Legal Counsel

Merl Ledford III
805 W. Oak St.
Visalia, CA 93291
(209) 627-2710

Artwork: Jana M. Botkin
Photography: E. F. Peterson & Marty Peterson

December 29, 1989

Dear Jean, MKPS Boardmember,

Please circle your calendar for Saturday, January 20,1990 for our quarterly board meeting of the MKPS to be held at 2936 S. West St., Visalia, at 2:00 P.M.

1990 is going to be one of the most important years of our organization. We will be electing officers for the ensuing year, a report of the Life membership committee, and John Elliott, Historian, will be present to go over the completed National Register Form which he will be presenting to the California Office of Historic Preservation the end of January, and our plans for next summer in Mineral King.

Please go over the enclosed, particulary the National Register Forms (NRF) before our next meeting. Your comments and questions are welcome.

If you will not be able to attend, please call me.

Thank you,

Ora Kay Peterson, Executive Directer
Mineral King Preservation Society

P.S. Anyone who belongs to the MKPS is invited to attend the board meetings.

2023.009.0408 a

November 2, 1989

Dear Ora Kay:

This letter will serve as an update as per the terms of our present contract to complete Phase II. In general, the project is progressing smoothly and we should be able to stay on schedule for the January submittal to OHP in Sacramento.

The work completed in October included the field review in Mineral King (October 10-11). The late season setting was picturesque as Elliott and Brock inspected each lot for outbuildings and verified the orientation of the cabins. We were able to make a number of corrections to our map, as well as plot the approximate locations of all outbuildings. An updated version of the 1987 map will be submitted as a requirement of the application.

In addition, the consultants determined the "new district boundaries" which will be presented in the section containing geographical data. Roughly speaking, the boundaries will be rectangular in shape and include all cabins in both East and West MK. Structures which are obvious non-contributors will be designated as such on the revised map.

During the recent inspection tour, we met Ron Kennedy and family at their cabin in Faculty Flat. The Kennedys invited us inside to view Mr. Mann's (original owner) handiwork. It seems that Mann was a woodshop teacher which, of course, explains the custom paneling throughout. The Kennedys acquired the cabin ca. 1972 from the Mann descendants who transferred the place "lock, stock and barrel." The Kennedys have kept the cabin exactly as it was during the Mann tenure of almost 50 years. It was most impressive to view firsthand the integrity and state of preservation of the Kennedy cabin. Also, the Kennedys expressed a desire to join MKPS.

After a brief delay, we were able to decipher the data which Cairns and Pinkham have stored on computer disk. Thanks to the patience and determination of Don Pinkham, we were able to convert the MKPS data for use in the NR application. Thanks, also, to Jim Barton for his personal delivery of same. Elliott is presently reviewing all files so as to incorporate the appropriate sections.

Please keep me updated as to any new information you may come across. I will be in Sacramento for another meeting with OHP on November 8th.

Respectfully,

J. E.

John F. Elliott
Historian

enc.

2023.009.0408 B

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The National Register is the Federal Government's official list of historic properties worthy of preservation. Listing in the National Register provides recognition and assists in preserving our Nation's heritage. Listing in the National Register has the following implications for historic properties:

- Consideration in the planning process for federally assisted projects Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 provides that the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation be given an opportunity to comment on projects affecting such properties.

- Eligibility for Federal tax benefits. If a property is listed in the National Register, certain tax provisions may apply. The Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981 and the Tax Reform Act of 1986 contain provisions intended to encourage the preservation of depreciable historic structures by allowing favorable tax treatments for rehabilitation, and to discourage destructions of historic buildings by eliminating certain Federal tax provisions for demolition of historic structures. The Economic Recovery Tax Act provides a 20% investment tax credit for rehabilitations of certain historic commercial, industrial and residential rental buildings.

- Qualification for Federal grants for historic preservation when funds are available.

- Availability of planning grants for feasibility studies for preservation or adaptive use.

- The Tax Treatment Extension Act of 1980 makes permanent the Federal income and estate tax deductions for charitable contributions of partial interests in real property (land and buildings). The voluntary donation of preservation easements may result in substantial tax deductions for the owners of property listed in the National Register.

- Local building inspector has power to grant code flexibility under State Historic Building Code, Title 24, Part 8.

- Local assessor may enter into contracts with property owners for property tax reduction.

- Major projects which would impact a National Register property may be subject to environmental requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act. Demolition of a historic structure may result in the loss of the tax deduction for the demolition costs.

No plaques, certificates, or markers are provided with this designation. For more detailed information on any of the items above, please contact the State Historic Preservation Officer, Office of Historic Preservation, P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, CA 94296-0001, (916) 445-8006.

2023.009.0408 C

December 14, 1989

Dear Ora Kay:

Here it is... hope the Board will be able to review the package as soon as possible. We will be at the Barton's during Dec. 23-26... this would be an excellent opportunity to field some questions and discuss some of the specifics. We probably won't have time to meet... but I will phone you during the visit.

As I mentioned in our phone conversation, I will forward a copy to Jim B. Please make copies for distribution to the Visalia area members. Also, one copy went to Don P. with the original of the invoice.

As you will note the document is largely complete. Some questions remain as to Criteria B. It is difficult to associate the use of the cabins to famous persons. Frank Mixter is one possibility... we would need to develop information on others. If we don't, we should still qualify on the other three categories.

Also, please note that Section 8 stll needs an archaeo. synthesis statement which would justify Criteria D. Brock simply ran out of time and will finish this statement as well as the captions/production on the 11 Figures under the final 25% of the contract. This work should be completed by January 15, 1990.

At our meeting on January 20 we will discuss the revisions to Volume 1. These should be minor, though we need a final version to submit to Sacramento along with the application.

The production of the draft presented great difficulty in the interpretation of the NR instructions. This preliminary version is presented on a copy of the actual nomination form, hence the poor xerox quality. The final will necessitate a combination of some retyping and computer processing. It is important that any changes/typos etc. be brought to my attention ASAP.

I might add that both Sarah and Brock performed work above and beyond the call of duty in the production of this draft. The typing was especially devilish trying to fit the text in the allotted space. Sarah's typing and Brock's maps set a very high standard for this type of work. Hats off to these dedicated members of MKPS.

Respectfully,

J.E.

enc.

2023.009.0408d

CARBONLESS

INVOICE

Elliott Research Associates
(714) 649-2873
P. O. BOX 342
SILVERADO, CA 92676

INVOICE NO.
5658

SOLD TO					
Mineral King Preservation Soc.					
STREET & NO.					
2936 S. West St.					
CITY	STATE	ZIP	CITY	STATE	ZIP
Visalia	CA	93277			

CUSTOMER'S ORDER	SALESMAN	TERMS	F.O.B.	DATE
		set		12/14/89

	3rd payment Phase II NR application			1137	50
	TOTAL DUE			1137	50
	Elliott Research Associates				
	(714) 649-2873				
	P. O. BOX 342 Thanks!				
	SILVERADO, CA 92676				

REDIFORM
71721/01723

Pd 12/28/89

2023.009.0408e

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

DRAFT

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name MINERAL KING

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK (8550) ☐ not for publication

city, town THREE RIVERS ☐ vicinity

state CA code 06 county TULARE code 107 zip code 93271

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
XX private	☐ building(s)	84	9 buildings
☐ public-local	X district		sites
☐ public-State	☐ site		structures
X public-Federal	☐ structure		objects
	☐ object	84	9 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☐ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other (explain.) _____

2023.009.0408 f

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC -
single dwelling
secondary structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC -
single dwelling
secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

OTHER -
domestic vernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Foundation STONE -mortar and cobble
Walls WOOD -board and batten
Roof WOOD -shake METAL -tin, steel

Describe present and historic physical appearance

The physical appearance of the Mineral King Valley has remained virtually unchanged since the post-1906 construction of the fifty-four (54) cabins and thirty-nine (39) outbuildings. Tables 1 and 2 (Continuation Sheet, Section 7, ppg. 1-3) list the construction date for each of the cabins. Maps A-C contain the specific locations of the 93 buildings to be included in the Mineral King Historic District.

Building placement, or distribution of the cabins throughout the valley, was determined by:

1) areas thought to be in the least danger from avalanche; and

2) U.S. Forest Service policies (after 1905).

The lots in the Mineral King tracts have experienced little change since the initial survey during the years 1906-1950. Some of the larger lots in East Mineral King were subdivided ca. 1915 to accommodate a few more cabins. The Faculty Flat portion (lot nos. 14-22) of West Mineral King was occupied during the 1920s. Six lots (nos. 33, 43-47) were added in the 1940s above the present Ranger Station to accommodate permittees whose lots had been condemned due to threats of flood or avalanche. These cabins, built 1947-1958, are not presently considered a part of the Mineral King Historic District.

Since the creation of the forest reserves in 1891, most land in the Mineral King Valley has been federally owned. The cabins are privately owned and maintained under the conditions of lease permits. The "Honeymoon" and Crowley cabins are exceptions, being located on private land, i.e. a patented mining claim.

☒ See continuation sheet

2023.009.04089

TABLE 1
WEST MINERAL KING CABINS
Average Date: 1926

Lot #	Permittee	Construction Date
WMK 1	Wollenman, William & Lawanda	1928 (est.)
WMK 2	Davis, Irwin & Alta	1920
WMK 3	Hengst, Bob	1926
WMK 4	Savage, Kenneth M., Estate	1959
WMK 5	Koontz, Richard & Helen	1916
WMK 6	Parks, James & Suzanne	1909
WMK 7	Reynolds, Leslie	1923
WMK 8	Mattoon, Darrell & Marjorie	1923
WMK 9	Dungan, Thomas & Ann	1923
WMK 10	Koch, Richard & Kathryn	1926
WMK 12	Willard, John & Lorine	1923
WMK 13	Barton, Jim & Jeanette	1924
WMK 14	Asay, Lyal	1925
WMK 15	Saurenman, Louise	1925
WMK 16	Wood, Gordon	1925
WMK 17	Kennedy, Ronald	1925
WMK 18	Bissiri, Paul & Debora	1928
WMK 19	Houk, Gareth & Nancy	1930 (est.)
WMK 20	Whitney, James/Whitney, Richard	1931
WMK 21	Benedict, John & Virginia	1928
WMK 22	Becker, Richard & Margaret	1929
WMK 23	Avery, Leslie & Constance	1928
WMK 24	Meyer, Robert & Helen	1926
WMK 25	Martin, Arthur & Martha	1921
WMK 27	Ewen, Alan & Margie	1927
WMK 28	Cochrun, Beatrice	1928
WMK 29	Deisman, Venore	1926
WMK 30	Devol, Kenneth & Shirley	1926
WMK 31	Hayward, Robert & Linda	1927
WMK 32	Paregien, Ronald	1939

2023.009.0408 h 3

TABLE 2
EAST MINERAL KING CABINS
Average Date: 1920

Lot #	Permittee	Construction Date
EMK 1	Pinkham, Eben & Josephine	1930
EMK 2	Lavers, Betty/Sellars, Ross	1931
EMK 3	Martin, William	1924 (est.)
EMK 5	Barboni, Morene	1905
EMK 7	Welch, Everett & Bonnie	1922
EMK 8	Dungan, Curtis & Louise	1912
EMK 10	Seaborn, Walter, Mrs.	1930
EMK 12	Fleek, Dan & Janet	1906
EMK 14	Cairns, David & Carol	1923
EMK 15	Deitz, Richard & Sandra	1930 (est.)
EMK 16	Davis, J./Peterson, E.	1916 (est.)
EMK 17	Montgomery, Robert & Alana	1912
EMK 19	Hicks, Robert	1912 (est.)
EMK 20	Pinkham, James	1929 (est.)
EMK 21	Jacobsen, Richard & Patricia	1921
EMK 22	Botkin, Michael & Jana	1910
EMK 25	Pinkham, Frank	1920 (est.)
EMK 26	Cosart, Keith	1914
EMK 34	Peterson, Jay & Mary	1916
EMK 36	Polly, Marian	1906 (est.)
EMK 37	Lowson, John	1907
EMK 38	Dungan, Katherine	1935
Private lease	Crowley, John	1930
Disney property	Honeymoon Cabin	1930

2023.009.0408 i

The Architecture of the Mineral King Cabin

A total of fifty-four (54) cabins are extant within the boundaries of the Mineral King Historic District. A distinct "Mineral King" style in cabin-building originated in the mining era 1873-1900. This local adaptation of the "log cabin" is an excellent example of domestic vernacular architecture.

In the early days of settlement and use of the Mineral King Valley, most dwellings were primitive one-room structures often designed for temporary use. With the opening of the Mineral King road in 1879, commercial building materials became more readily available, though the cost of transport greatly limited their use.

By the 1880s, a summer use function was reflected in both the site and floor plan of the evolving Mineral King cabin. A decade of winter seasons with recurring avalanches had dramatically demonstrated to valley "old timers" where the safest areas were situated.

> Those cabins used by families during the summer months were larger and more comfortable. In general, they were all built after the same plan. The floor rested on a foundation of good sized rocks, and the frame was built of logs, shakes or clapboard. There were three rooms with an attic for bunks. The largest room was living room, bedroom, kitchen and dining room, all in one. It had a fireplace that was used for both heating and cooking. Up one wall was a very steep ladder or simply cleats protruding from the wall, making access to the attic. The roof was steep so that in the attic a person could stand up only in the very middle. The space for bunks or bedrolls depended on the size of the cabin [Jackson 1988:46].

Remarkably, the above description of the early summer cabin captures the essence of the Mineral King cabin today. The Mineral King cabin developed in response to a unique set of environmental and historical conditions.

Dominant among the environmental factors is the ever-present danger of avalanche in an elevation which averages more than 7,500 feet above sea level. Although some sections of the valley have escaped the wholesale destruction of snowslides, unusually high snowpack seasons have caused damage in all quarters of the basin. In response to this condition, the steep pitch of the roof and steel rods which reinforce the loadbearing beams have become a standard practice.

Historically, the benchmark in the development of the Mineral King cabin occurred in 1915 with the enactment of the Term Occupancy Act. This legislation permitted the Forest Service to allow private use for a term of 30 years. Now assured of a more "permanent" permit, recreationists were encouraged to construct cabins and other resort buildings (Tweed 1980:3).

Although the immediate effects of this legislation were more dramatic in the Angeles National Forest in southern California, a few cabins were added to the Mineral King tracts. More importantly, some guidelines were instituted which brought subtle changes to the Mineral King cabin. By the 1930s, the Forest Service required that new permittees submit specific construction plans and that these "improvements" be worth at least $2,000.00 (Lux 1987:11). In Mineral King, it was stipulated that improvements be worth at least $500.00 (Elliott 1937).

The use of painted sheet metal for roofing and "rusticated" materials for siding were two Mineral King "adornments" which evolved as a result of the Forest Service guidelines. Low, sprawling cabins with dominant horizontal lines were preferred (Lux 1987:11). As new cabins were built or old ones remodeled, the Mineral King community began to take on these shared characteristics (Figures 1-10).

Secondary Structures

A total of thirty-nine (39) outbuildings are extant within the boundaries of the Mineral King Historic District. Of this number, twenty-six (26) are outhouses, ten (10) are storage sheds, and three (3) are bunkhouses to provide additional sleeping quarters.

According to information furnished by oral informants, the Forest Service began to encourage permittees to convert to septic systems in the 1940s. In the ensuing years, the use of outhouses was gradually discontinued though many have survived and are currently used as storage. Today, only one working outhouse is permitted. This one in particular (EMK 12) is of recent construction and is a non-contributor. One other outhouse (EMK 20) was remodeled to accommodate storage and is also listed as a non-contributor.

Although specific information on the outbuildings is sketchy, all others are thought to contain the necessary integrity to be listed as contributors. Photographic examples of Mineral King outbuildings are contained in the section following the continuation sheets (Figure 11).

Alterations

Frequent avalanches and an average winter snowpack in excess of 20 feet have caused the typical Mineral King cabin to experience some remodeling. In all but a few instances (non-contributors), cabin owners have recycled historic materials in this process.

Changes instituted by Forest Service guidelines necessitated some alterations in the historic appearance of the Mineral King cabin. After 1940, colors of siding and roofing material were limited to the standard brown and green in keeping with the "hues" of the forest. Additionally, owners were encouraged to add septic systems and indoor toilets.

The typical Mineral King cabin was constructed over several seasons as time and resources were available. One permittee, Paul Bissiri, furnished documentation on the various building episodes of the Bissiri cabin (WMK 18). Bissiri's original drawings have been reproduced as an example of this process. (Figure 3).

2023.009.0408.L

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ [illegible]

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☒ B ☒ C ☒ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A [illegible]

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Significant Dates	
Architecture	1906-1940	1906
Archaeology/Historic		1915
Politics/Government		
Other; Recreation		
	N/A	

Significant Person | Cultural Affiliation

Frank Mixter | N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Mineral King is a V-shaped glacial basin two miles long and a quarter mile wide, and is rimmed with peaks rising 3,000-4,000 feet above the valley floor to elevations greater than 12,000 feet. Six streams cascade into the valley and join to form the headwaters of the East Fork of the Kaweah River, flowing through flower-filled meadows and groves of pine, aspens and cottonwood trees.

Within this storied setting, the Mineral King cabins have evolved in harmony with the forest environment. Built from local timber and stone, the cabins constitute a living historical continuum with their origin in the mining era of 1873-1900.

The Mineral King cabin tradition began with the one-room miner's shack, and later developed into a summer home community after the Term Occupancy Act of 1915.

> Many of the first permittees designed and built their own cabins. Some were carpenters and constructed well-built cabins, while others built cabins so poorly that subsequent owners had to practically rebuild the structure.
>
> The first summer homes reflected a high degree of individualism, the character of the local environment, and the personality of the builder. Summer home cabin construction was often unconventional in design and materials. Obstacles such as massive rock outcrops, steep slopes, and poor access called for creativity and adaptability [Lux 1987:14].

☒ See continuation

2023.009.0408M

Statement of Significance, continued

In summary, the Mineral King cabin communities are representative of an evolving vernacular; a dynamic, rugged individualist tradition, with it's roots in the history of the High Sierra. The Mineral King cabins and their archaeology constitute an irreplaceable historic resource and form a tangible link with more than 100 years of California past.

National Register Criteria

The Mineral King Historic District is significant under Criteria A, having originated as a mining camp and town 1873-1882. After the San Francisco earthquake of April 18, 1906, the Mineral King recreational community was largely rebuilt, achieving a national prominence under the influence of three distinct modes of federal policy administration:

1) Sierra Forest Reserve, 1891;
2) Sequoia National Forest, 1908; and
3) Sequoia National Game Refuge, 1926

John Muir's trips into Mineral King, first in the summer of 1875 and finally in July of 1908, had kindled the conservationist's conviction to see the Mineral King area annexed to Sequoia National Park (created in 1890). A number of proposals were offered by conservationists which would have included Mineral King in an enlarged Sequoia National Park.

After the organization of the National Park Service (NPS) in 1916, the enlargement of Sequoia was viewed as critical to the success of the Western Region. Stephen Mather was appointed as director of NPS. Mather's original annexation proposal for Sequoia included the Mineral King Valley in it's 850,000 acres (Harper 1982:42).

Negotiations circa 1920 whittled Mather's original proposed acreage to approximately 600,000, though the majority of the rest was later (1940) included in Kings Canyon National Park. The Mineral King Valley was among the subtracted acreage and remained under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service. It was at this juncture that Mineral King became virtually enclosed by the legislated growth of Sequoia National Park (Harper 1982:43).

> At last, on July 3, 1926, President Calvin Coolidge signed the act authored by Congressman Henry E. Barbour of California which approximately doubled the size of Sequoia National Park. New parklands included the upper Kern River basin and a stretch of the Sierra Nevada crest that boasted several of the highest peaks in the range, topped by Mt. Whitney. Though the Mineral King basin remained under the control of Sequoia National Forest, its status was altered to that of a Federal game refuge by the same stroke of President Coolidge's pen [ibid.].

The inclusion of Mineral King in the Sequoia National Game Refuge underscored a peculiar political geography which delineated the range of a deer herd. Deer, which grazed the Mineral King Valley in summer, migrated west to the lower elevations of Sequoia National Park in the winter. "Actually, Forest Service resistance to the valley's transfer with the other proposed parklands had much to do with the exclusion of Mineral King in 1926" (ibid.).

The Forest Service resistance boiled down to a matter of "commercial value." Henry Graves, the Chief of the Forest Service who succeeded Pinchot, testified at a Congressional hearing in 1920 that, although he presumed that mining at Mineral King "never will amount to anything," it was unprincipled to place potential mineral lands inside a national park (ibid.).

The Mineral King Historic District is significant under Criteria C being of a distinctive type and representing a distinguishable entity, i.e. the recreational cabin. The Mineral King cabin is an evolving domestic vernacular style to the central Sierra Nevadas.

The year 1915 was an important benchmark in the history of the Mineral King cabin. Cabins built prior to the Term Occupancy Act (1915) developed in areas which had been mining camps during the years 1873-1890. Through associations which spanned more than a generation, Mineral King folks chose to build cabins in "safe" areas which were most often free from avalanches.

2023.009.0408 10

The majority of these cabins (pre-1915) were located in the area known today as East Mineral King. In the mining era, this part of the Mineral King Valley had been known as "Beulah," and later as the town of Mineral King. Interestingly, at least five (5) cabins remain in this part of the valley presently owned by descendants of J.W.C. Pogue. Pogue was a pioneer settler on Dry Creek, early miner at Mineral King, father of the area citrus industry, and founder of the town of Lemon Cove (Mitchell 1987:77).

A few other cabins were built on sites near the present-day Timber Gap trailhead in the area known historically as Harry's Bend and the Empire townsite. The remainder of the early cabins (pre-1915) were built at the upper end of modern-day West Mineral King. Since 1873, this part of the Mineral King Valley has been known as Barton's Camp (Jackson 1988:23).

The cabins built after 1915 make up the largest number of the remaining structures in the district. The majority of these are scattered throughout the traditionally used locales.

One sub-community called "Faculty Flat" consists of another dozen or so structures built between 1924-1930. This group was developed as part of the Forest Service efforts to attract summer home tenants to the district. Faculty Flat derives it's name from a group of Los Angeles area educators who were issued summer home permits for this portion of West Mineral King.

Some remodeling and alterations have been necessary owing to the geographical landscape. A number of structures were damaged beyond repair in the floods of 1955. The winter season of 1969 produced an unusually heavy snowpack, and again structures were destroyed including the historic Mineral King Store. Cabins which were repaired utilized local timber and stone, recycling historic materials.

2023.009.0408 P

9. Major Bibliographical References

Elliott, J.E.
1937 Written communication from J.E. Elliott, Forest Supervisor, Sequoia National Forest, to J.S. Dungan, Mineral King permittee. Copy on file with MKPS, Visalia.

Harper, John L.
1982 Mineral King: Public Concern With Government Policy. Pacifica Publishing Company, Arcata.

Jackson, Louise A.
1988 Beulah: A Biography of the Mineral King Valley of California. Westerlore Press, Tucson.

Lux, Linda, editor
1987 Draft Report: A Thematic Study of Recreation Residences in the Pacific Southwest Region. Ms. on file with the USDA, Forest Service, Region 5, San Francisco.

4

X [illegible]

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
- [ ] preliminary determination of individual [illegible] (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- [ ] previously listed in the National Register
- [ ] previously determined eligible by the National Register
- [ ] designated a National Historic Landmark
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

[illegible] location of additional data:
- [ ] State historic preservation office
- [ ] Other State agency
- [ ] Federal agency
- [ ] Local government
- [ ] University
- [ ] Other

Specify repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property West Mineral King: 13.6 acres; East Mineral King: 17.2 acres

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	11	355080	4035200	B	11	355250	4035250
C	11	355530	4035150	D	11	355620	4035160

[X] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Mineral King Historic Cabins District is shown as two polygons (Maps A and B). The general locations of these polygons is shown on the accompanying portion of the USGS 15' Mineral King, California topographic quadrangle (Map C). Refer to Section 10 of this registration form for UTM references to the polygon vertices.

[ ] See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The polygon boundaries of the district (Maps A, B, and C) enclose portions of the cultural landscape which contain most of the sites and features associated with historic Mineral King cabin use. Several non-contributing structures are located outside of the district boundaries.

[ ] See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John F. Elliott, Historian James Brock, Archaeologist
organization Mineral King Preservation Society date January 1990
street & number 2936 S. West Street telephone (209)734-6150
city or town Visalia state CA zip code 93277

2023.009.0408 & 12

Major Bibliographical References, continued

Mitchell, Annie R.
1987 The Way It Was: The Colorful History of Tulare County. Panorama West Publishing, Fresno.

Tweed, William
1980 Recreation Site Planning and Improvements in National Forests 1891-1942. USDA, Forest Service, F.S. 354, Washington, D.C.

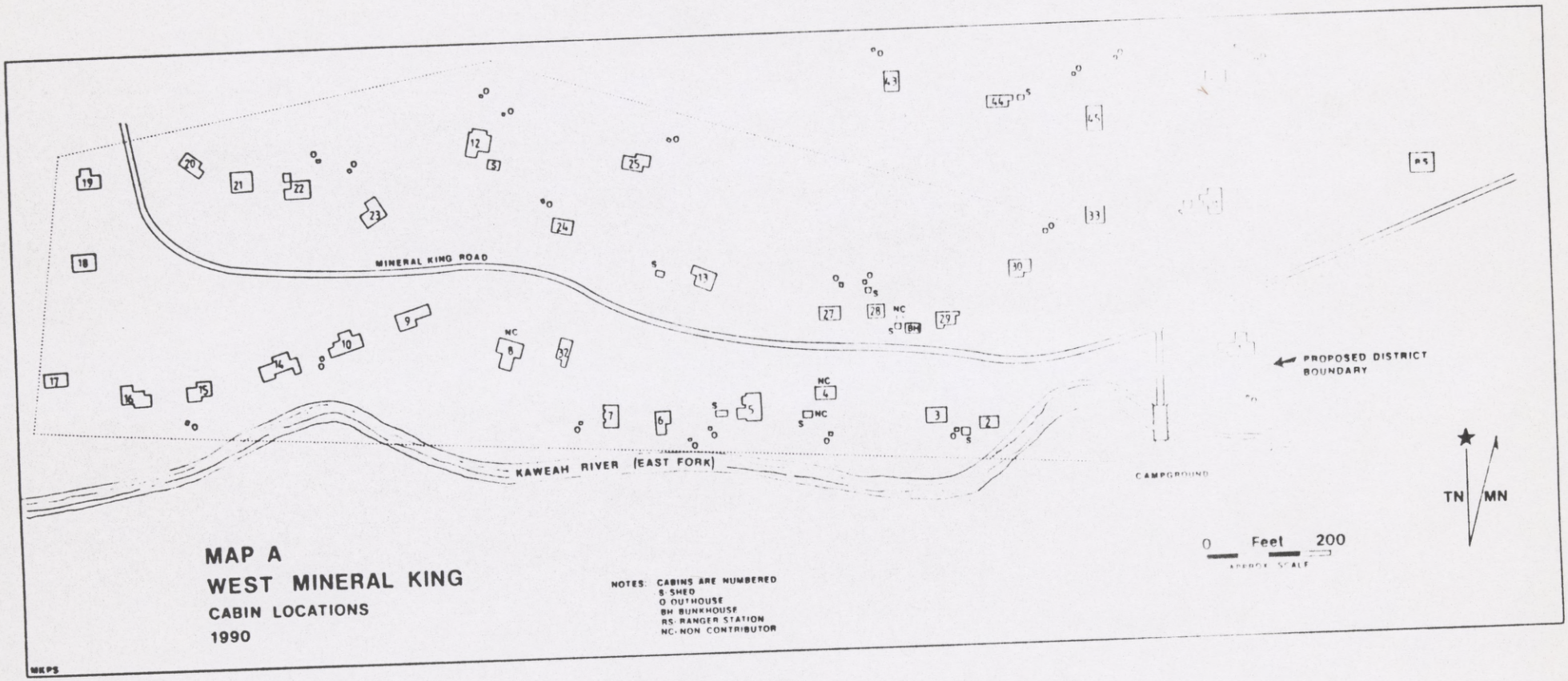
1977 Draft of National Register Nomination, Mineral King Road. Ms. on file at Sequoia National Park, Ash Mountain.

2023.009.0408.R

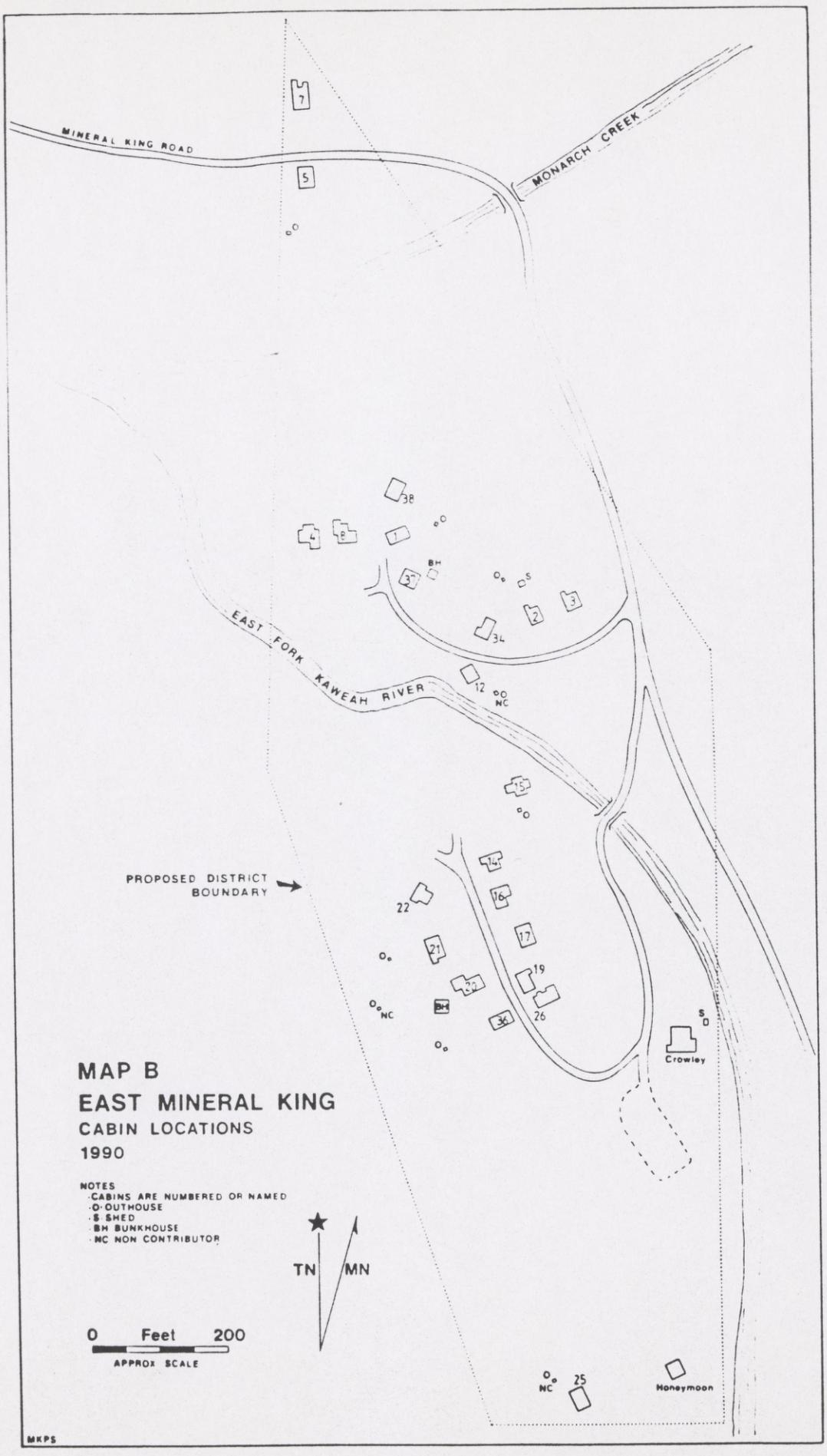
Geographical Data, continued

4 UTM References:

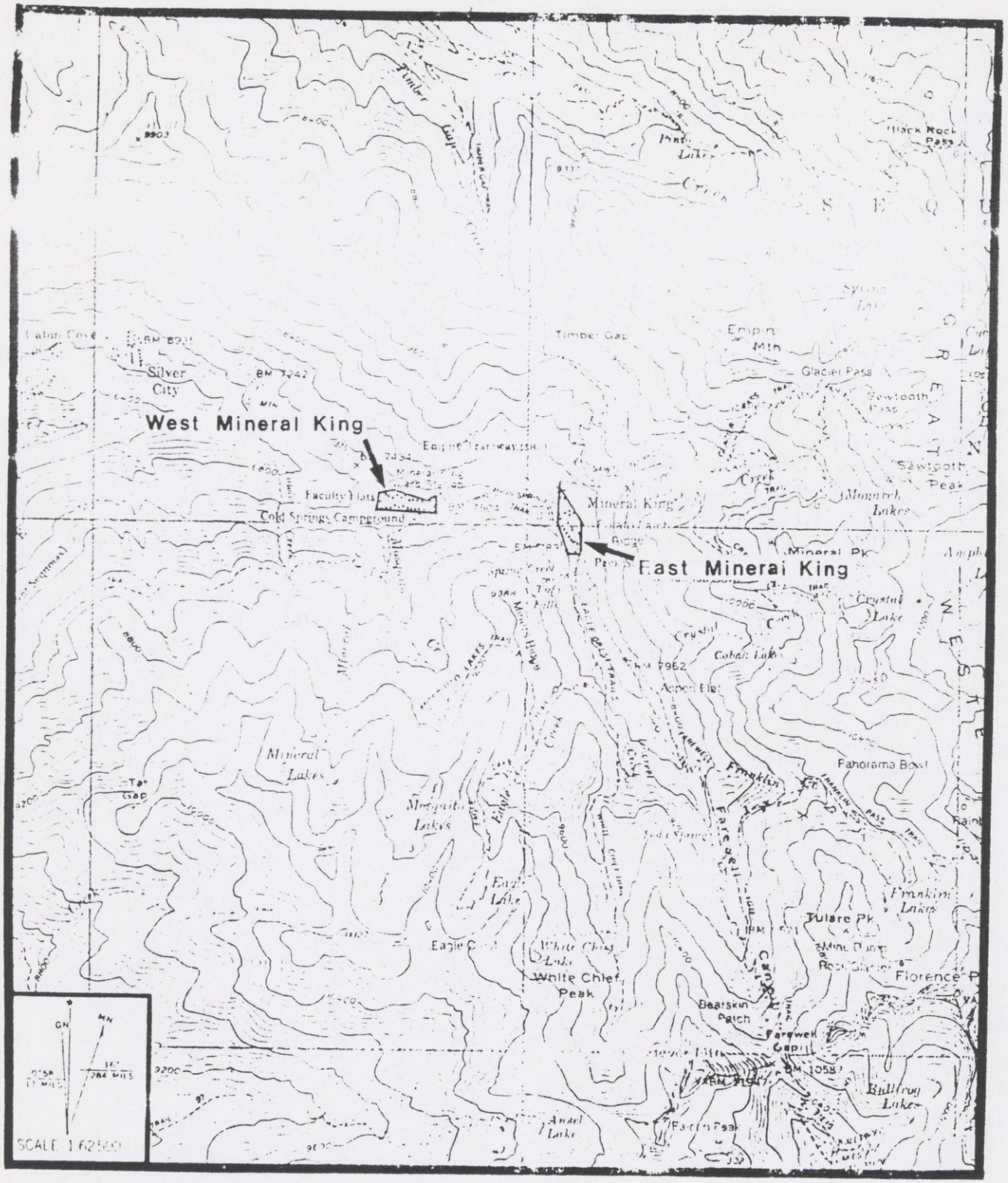
Vertex	Zone	Easting	Northing
E	11	355620	4035000
F	11	355050	4035050
G	11	356950	4035260
H	11	357220	4034900
I	11	357200	4034600
J	11	357050	4034600
K	11	356925	4034880



2023.008.0408 T_15



2023.009.0408 CL


West Mineral King
East Mineral King
Silver City
Cold Springs Campground
Faculty Flats
Timber Gap
Empire Mtn
Glacier Pass
Sawtooth Pass
Sawtooth Peak
Monarch Lakes
Mineral Pk
Crystal Lake
Cobalt Lake
Mineral Lakes
Mosquito Lakes
Eagle Lake
Eagle Creek
White Chief Lake
White Chief Peak
Panorama Bowl
Franklin Lakes
Tulare Pk
Florence Pk
Bearskin Patch
Bullfrog Lake
Farewell Gap
Farewell Cirque
Timber Gap
Black Rock Pass
Crystal Creek
Mineral King Creek
Eagle Scout Trail
Franklin Pass
Empire Mine
Rock Glacier
Arrow Elbr
Arrow Peak
Pacific Pass
Angel Lake
SCALE 1:62500

MAP C

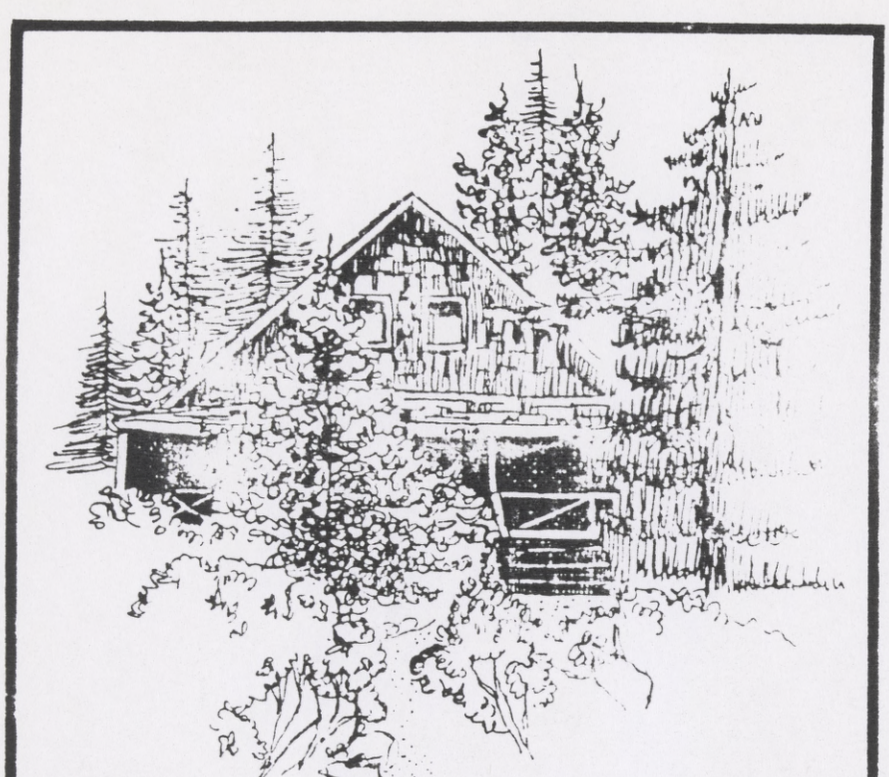


Figure 1.

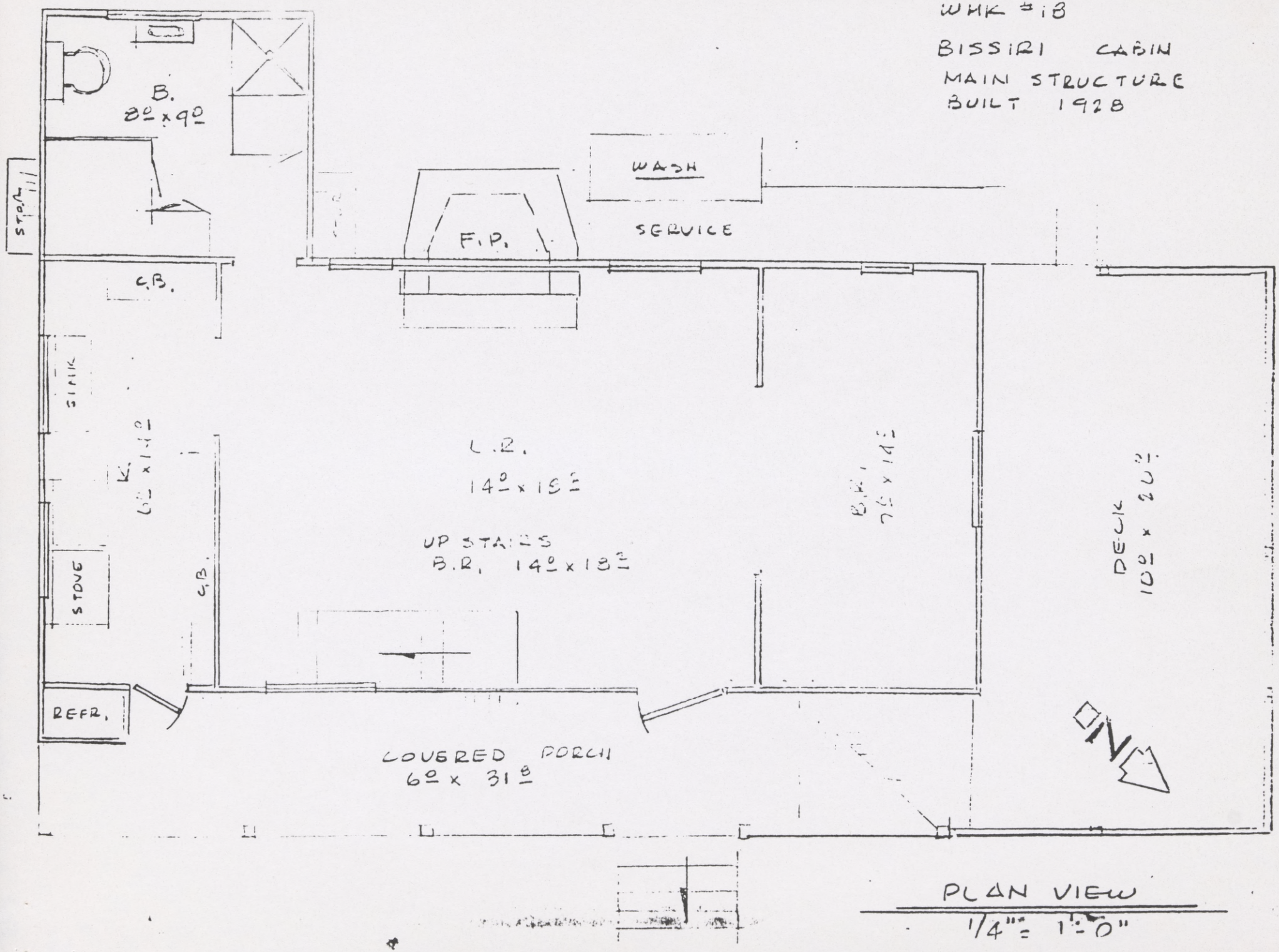
Figure 2

WHK #18

BISSIRI CABIN

MAIN STRUCTURE

BUILT 1928

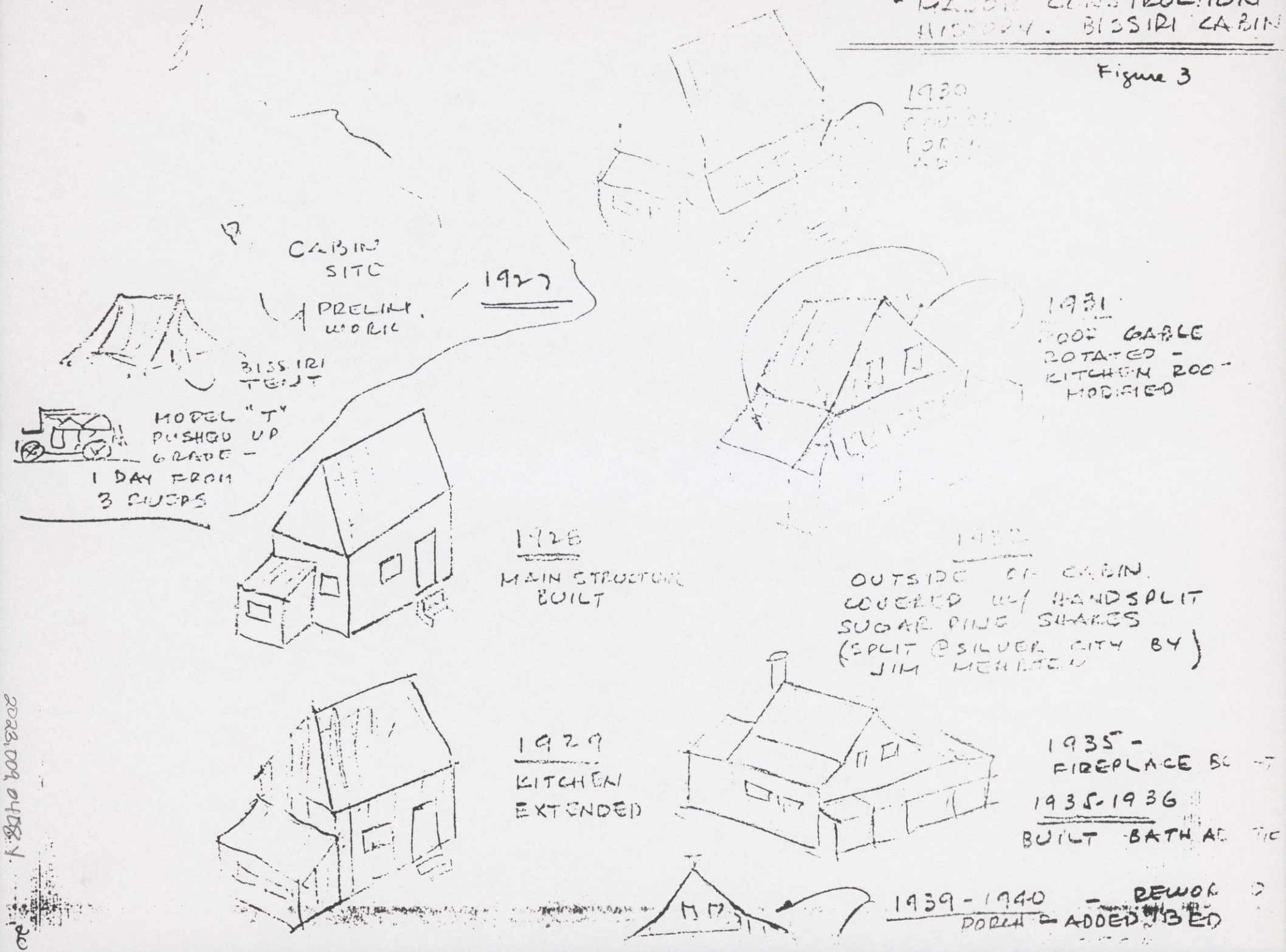


PLAN VIEW

1/4" = 1'-0"

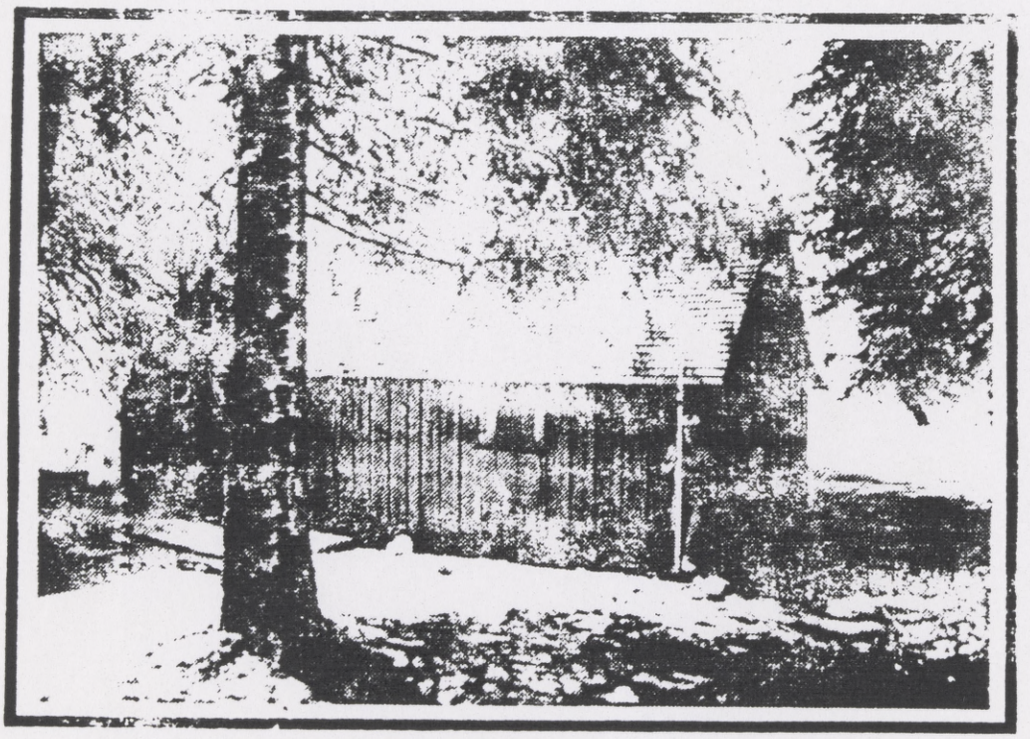
* MAJOR CONSTRUCTION HISTORY. BISSIRI CABIN

Figure 3



2023.069.0408 Z

Figure 5



2023.009.0408 Z1

Figure 6

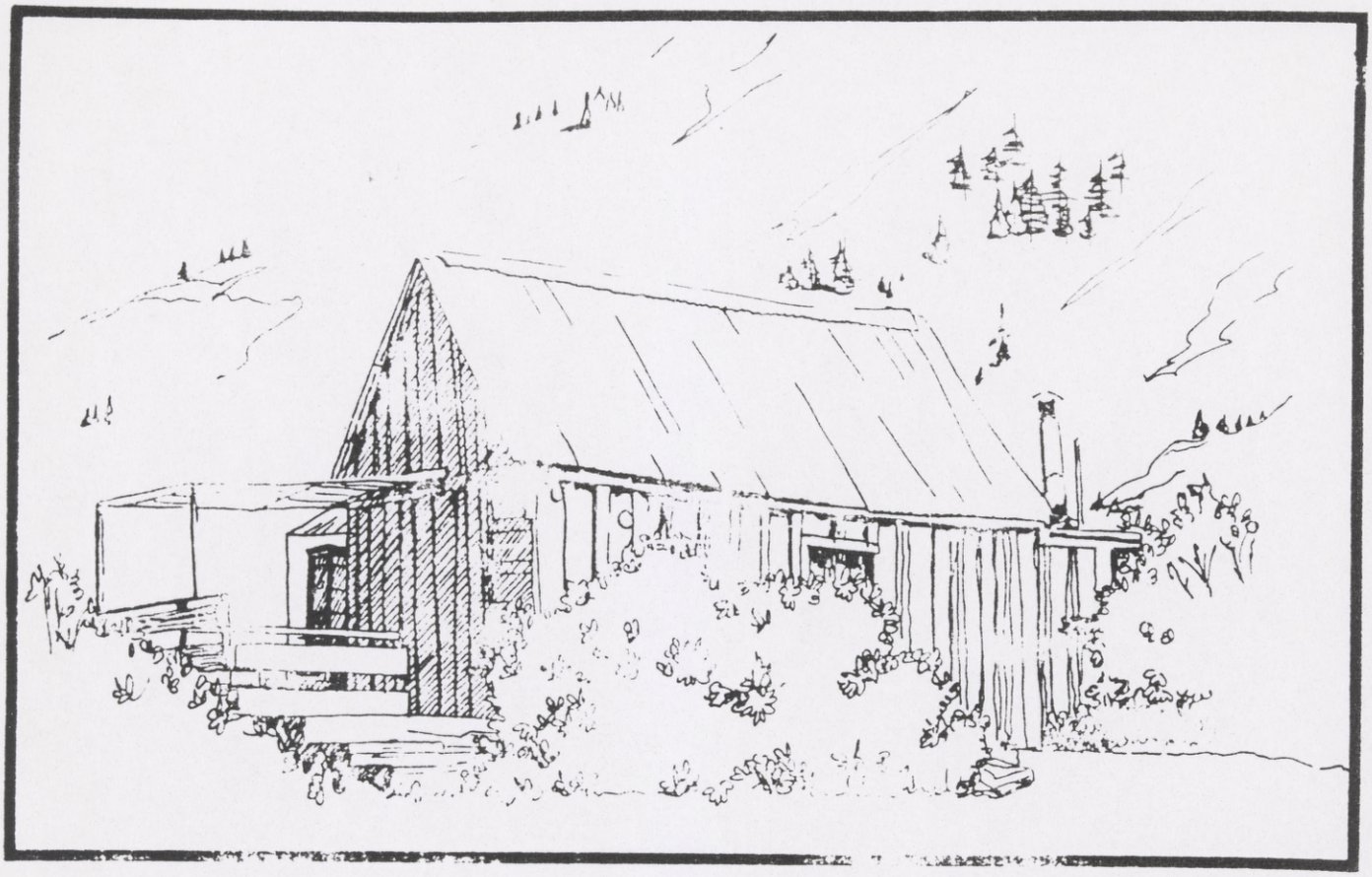
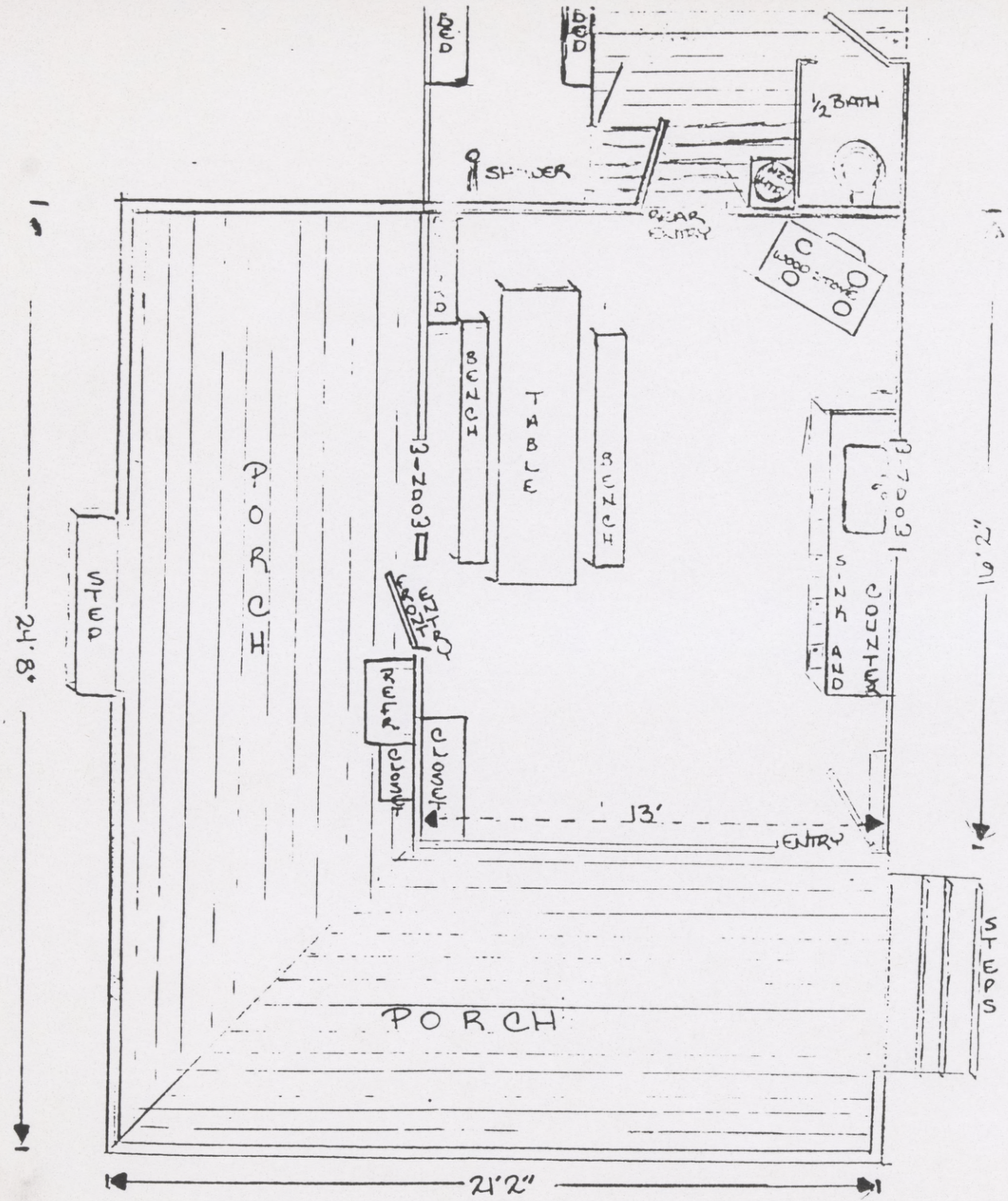
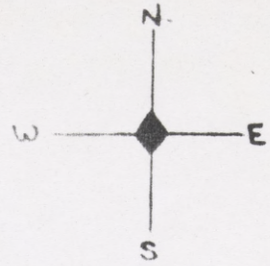


Figure 7

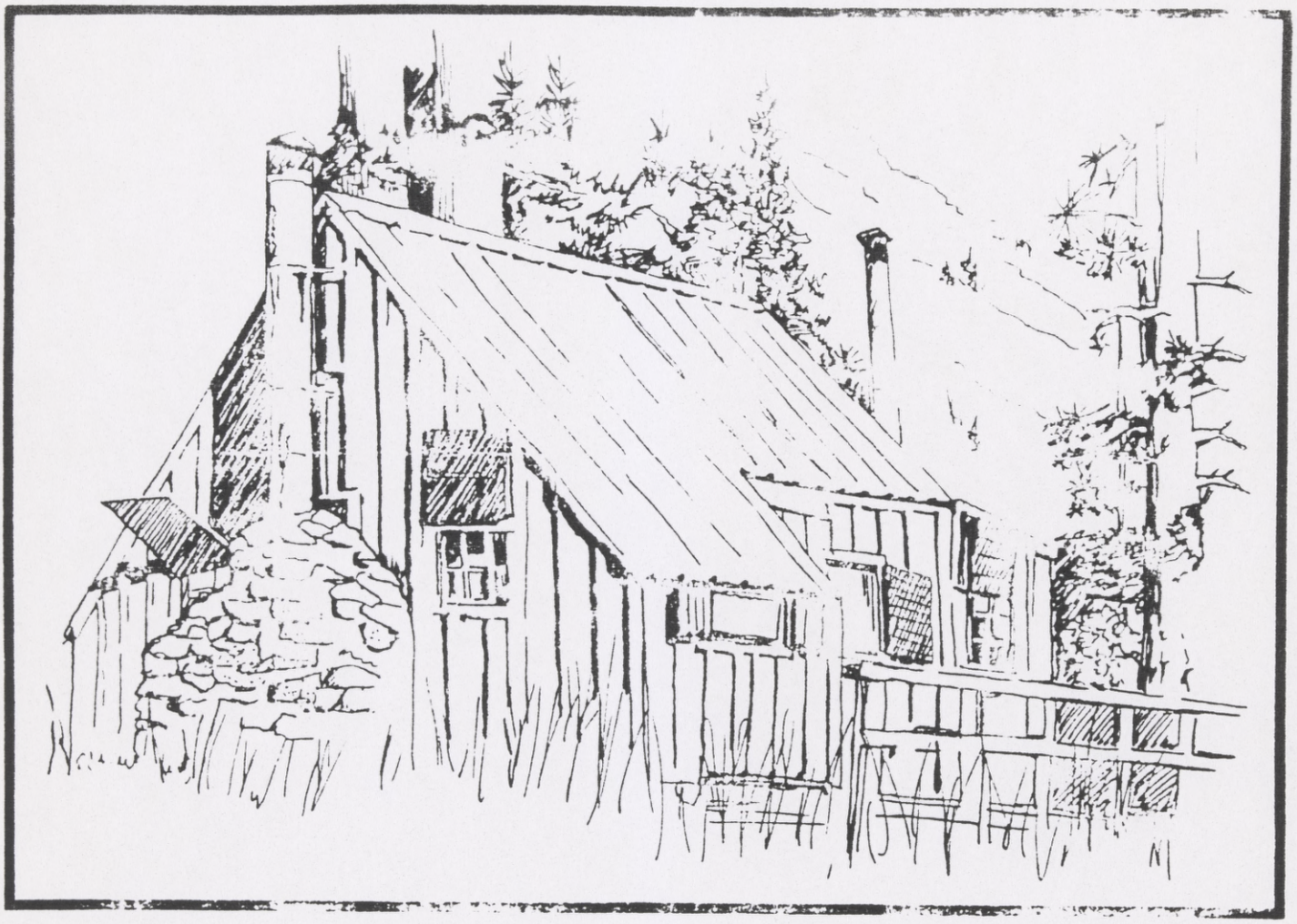




FLOOR PLAN
DAVIS-WELCH CABIN
E.M.H. #7

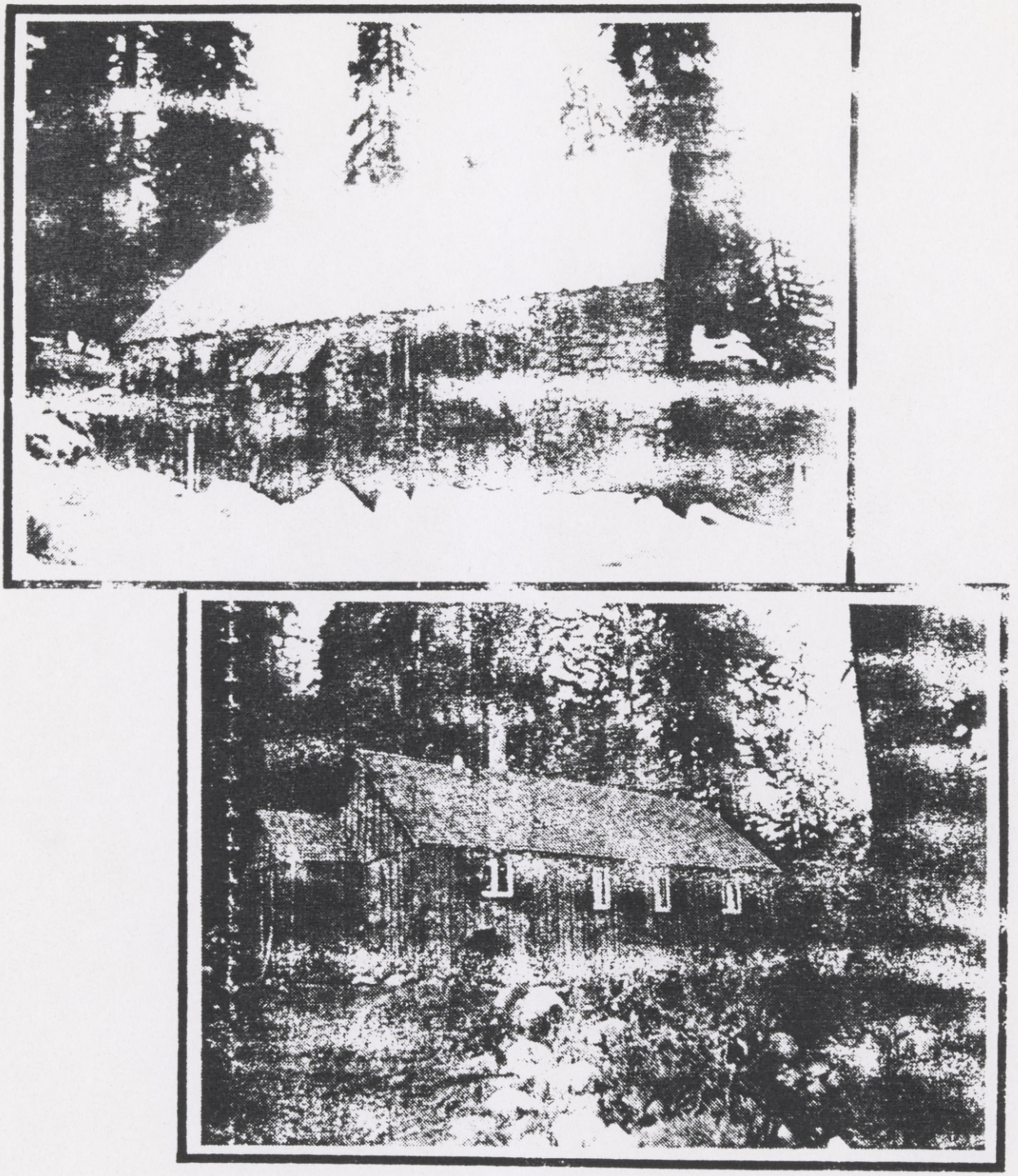
2025.008.0408 Z3 24

Figure 8

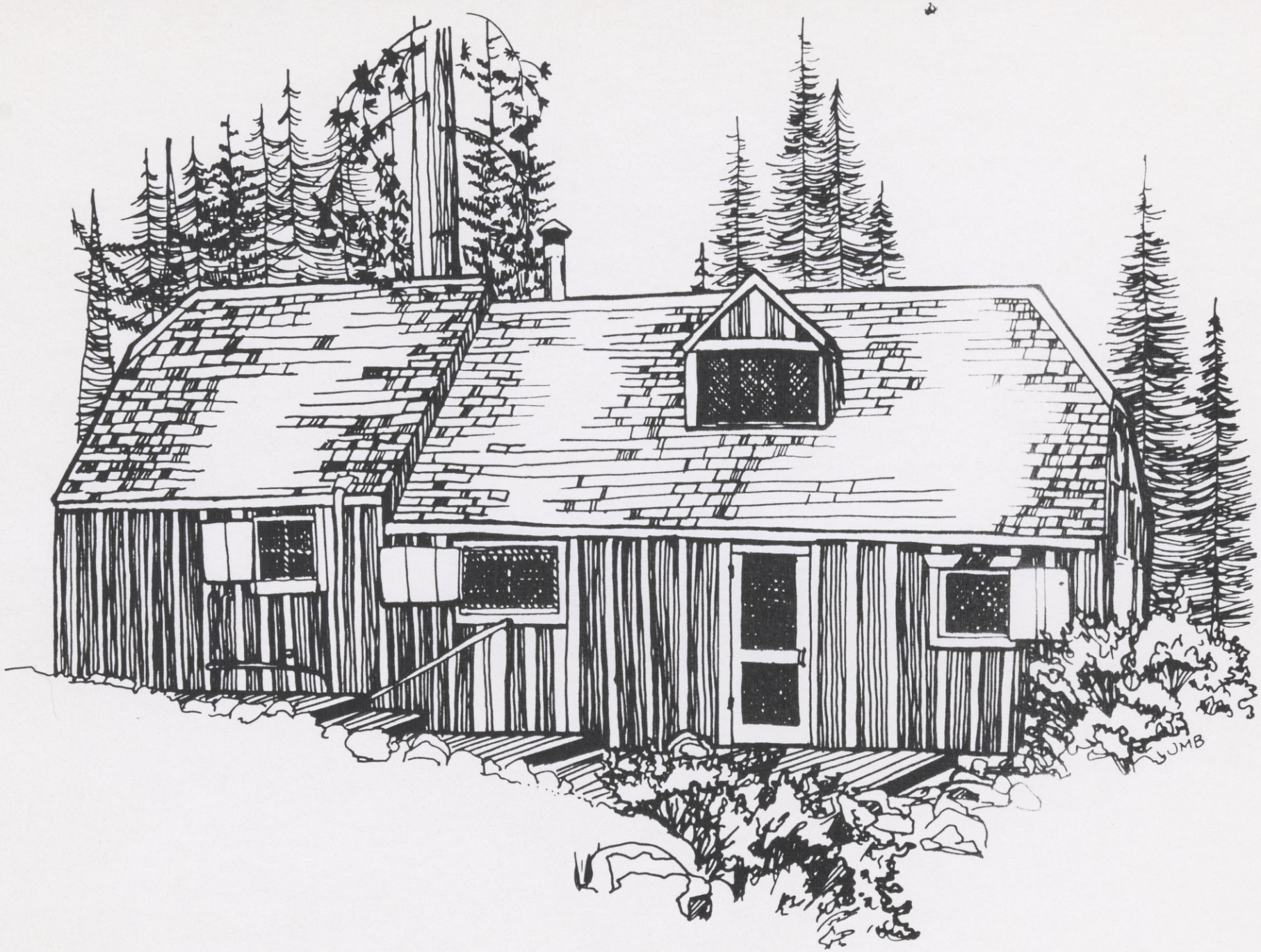


2023.009.0408.24

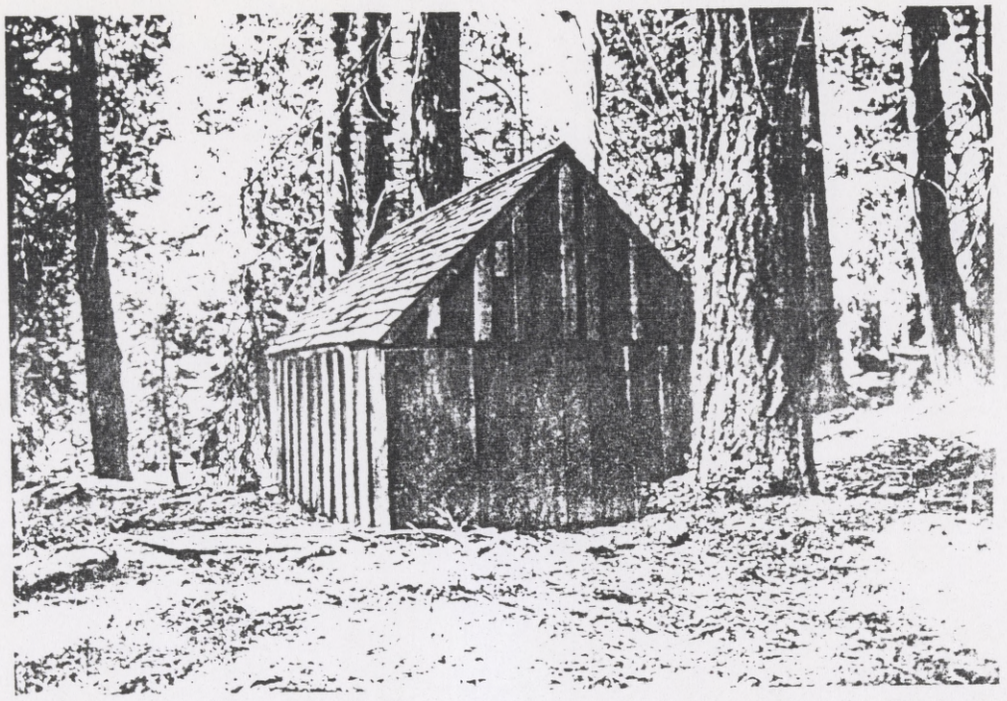
Figure 9

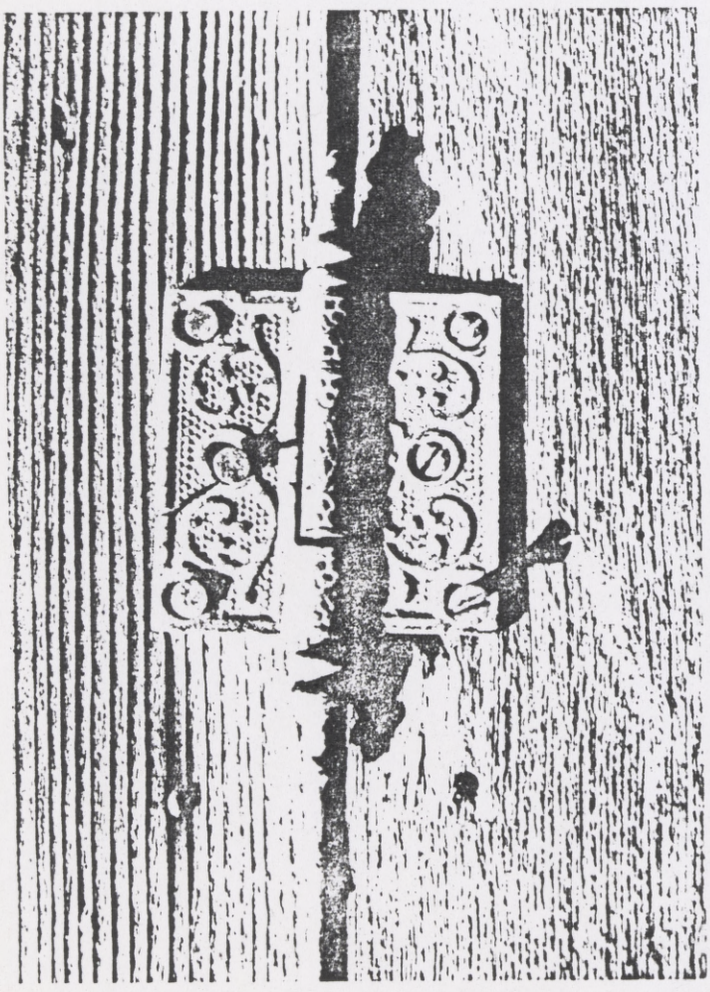


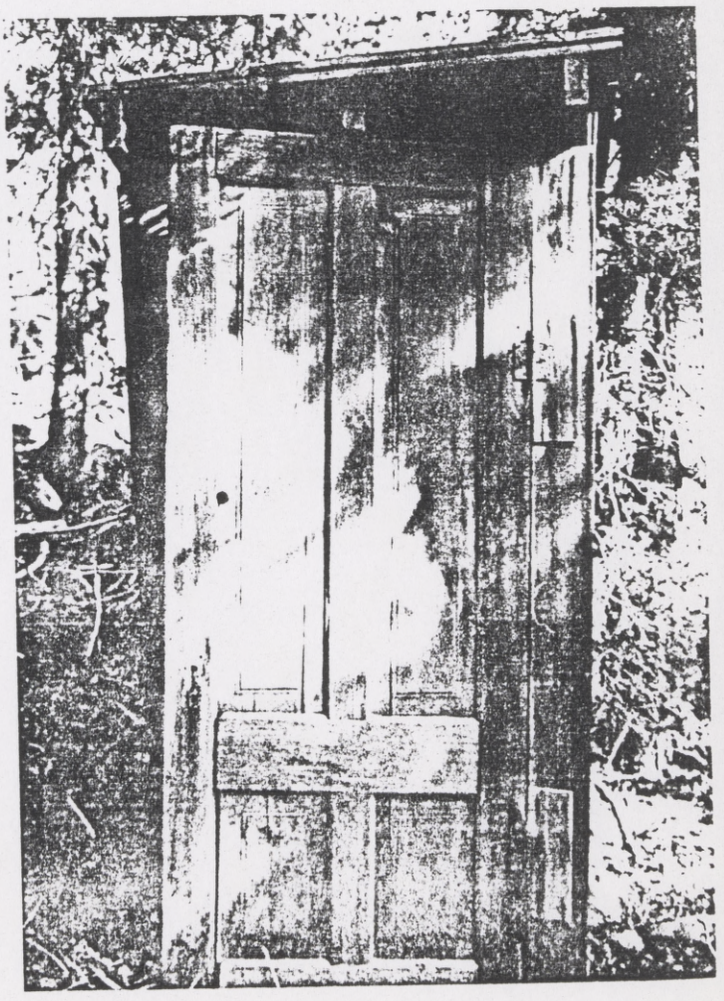
2023.009.0408.25



2023.009.a/28 ZL6







2023.004 0408 CZ7